

APRIL 2007

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CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY PURCHASE AND PLANT A TREE



THE CITY IS HOLDING A TREE SALE. COST is \$50 each. Trees will be distributed on **Saturday, May 5, 9 - 11 a.m.** To purchase up to five trees, call 952-563-8751 or download a form from the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Tree sale.

TOGETHER WE STAND



WHAT DO ALL PARENTS DESIRE FOR THEIR KIDS?

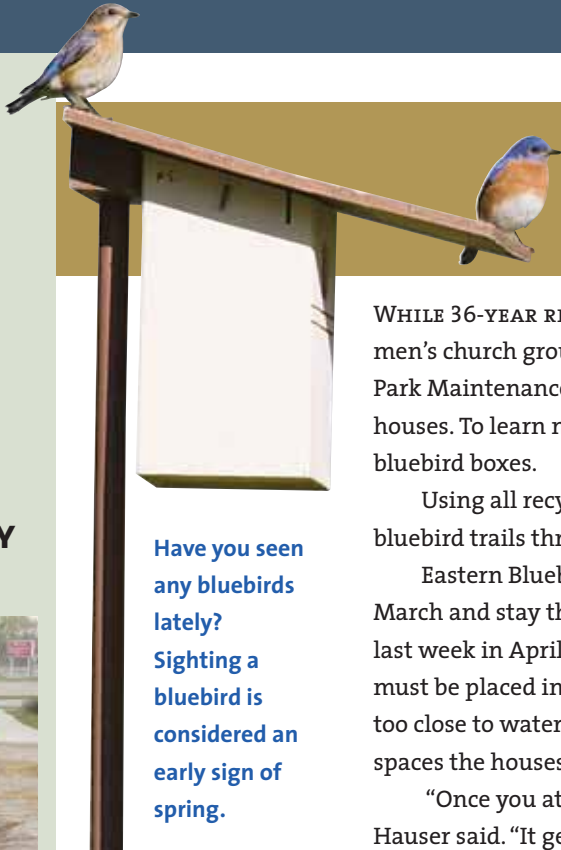
Health, happiness, opportunity.

Parents can support each other by not providing alcohol to minors. Obey the law and encourage other parents to do the same.

UNDERAGE DRINKING INCREASES during prom, graduation parties and summer celebrations. Parents, community leaders and other supportive adults play an important role in reducing underage drinking.

- The strongest predictor of kids not using alcohol, marijuana and other drugs is the belief that their parents will be upset if they do.
- New research shows heavy drinking in the teen years can cause long-lasting harm to thinking abilities.
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to possess or consume alcohol.
- It is illegal to provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.

For information, call Bloomington Public Health at 952-563-8900 or visit www.tricitypartners.org.



**Have you seen
any bluebirds
lately?
Sighting a
bluebird is
considered an
early sign of
spring.**

THE HOUSES THAT JACK BUILDS ATTRACTING THE BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS

WHILE 36-YEAR RESIDENT JACK HAUSER WAS VOLUNTEERING TO CLEAN UP NORMANDALE LAKE WITH HIS men's church group in 1994, he wondered what else they could do to enhance the park. Bloomington Park Maintenance Supervisor Ed O'Brien suggested putting up a bluebird trail – a series of bluebird houses. To learn more, Hauser quickly joined a Bluebird Recovery Program and set a goal to build 1,000 bluebird boxes.

Using all recycled materials, Hauser has built more than 500 bluebird boxes. You can spot Hauser's bluebird trails throughout Bloomington's parks, golf courses, schools and at Bloomington Civic Plaza.

Eastern Bluebirds arrive in Minnesota at the end of March and stay through October. They begin nesting the last week in April. In order to attract bluebirds, the houses must be placed in an open field, away from brush and not too close to water. Because bluebirds are territorial, Hauser spaces the houses every 200 yards.

"Once you attract the bluebirds, they'll come back," Hauser said. "It gets better each year."



Above photo by Wendell Long.

NORMANDALE LAKE AREA STUDY BALANCING DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE



WITH CONVENIENT ACCESS TO I-494, CLOSE proximity to the airport, and other amenities such as Normandale Lake and Hyland Parks, the area around 84th Street and Normandale Boulevard is not only a perfect residential setting, but also one of the prime office locations in the Twin Cities.

Today, the concentration of offices in the Normandale Lake area is second only to that in downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. About 8,000 people work in the two million square feet of office space south of I-494 and east of Bush Lake Road. Over the next 20 years, an additional 1.5 million square feet of office space could be constructed on vacant and redeveloped parcels in the area.

Currently underway, the Normandale Lake Area Study will make recommendations for completing development. The study's recommendations will include proposed street and traffic improvements, managing impacts on adjacent residential areas and parks, and incorporating sustainable development features such as transit, bike trails, paths and other urban design elements.

The City's objective is to complete commercial development and address transportation infrastructure while

responding to residents' concerns about neighborhood traffic and improving the experience for people using the parks.

"The wisdom in Bloomington's plans from the 1960s was to concentrate commercial development in nodes along I-494," Community Development Director Larry Lee said. "Today that strategy creates an excellent starting point for planning private development and a public realm that will be equally attractive as a work place, recreation area and neighborhood."

Study recommendations will describe street, transit, bikeways and trails, and surface water quality improvements. Equally important, the study will determine how to finance public improvements as the area

continues to develop and redevelop over the next 20 years.

During the last year, a number of neighborhood meetings and open houses were held to solicit comments from residents, developers and commercial landowners. Additional meetings will be scheduled as the study approaches final recommendations in June.

"We are looking to accommodate an attractive, sustainable development along with protecting the area's rich, natural environment," City Planner Julie Farnham said. "The vision is for a place where beautiful regional parks, a premiere employment center and a high level of access come together."

For information, call Planning and Economic Development at 952-563-8920.

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